definite suggestions to make on the subject and promised to submit a memorandum later on.

Reply.—As has been already said, this subject has engaged the attention of Government. The memorandum promised will also be considered when received.

178. **Advancement of technical education.**

Mr. Kesavan Padmanabhan (*Mavelikara*) observed that agriculture was at present the sole source of livelihood of the people of this State and that it would be admitted on all hands that this was not a desirable state of matters. He therefore prayed that technical schools for teaching industrial subjects might be opened in all the taluks or at least in important centres.

Mr N. Madhavan Valiathan (*Tiruvalla*), *and Mr. Padmanabhan Parameswaran and Mr. Narayanan Velayudhan* (*Pathanapuram*) also spoke on the subject.

Mr. M. Bhuthalingam Pillai (*Eranicl*) said that a power-loom and a technical college might be established at Trivandrum and that five poor and deserving young men from each of the Divisions might be given scholarships and sent to such progressive foreign countries as Japan for technical education.

Mr. T. Marthandan Tampi B. A., (*Trivandrum*) spoke on the desirability of encouraging technical education by (1) the starting of technical schools in all important centres, (2) sending scholars periodically at Government cost to foreign countries for acquiring technical knowledge and (3) holding industrial exhibitions every year at some important centre of the State. He said that it was gratifying to learn that the number of technical schools increased last year from 12 to 16, but he wished to point out that in many of them only commercial and no industrial subjects were taught and no manual training was given to the students. Besides, it was painful to note that the weaving class had been abolished in the School of Arts. Scholarships were being no doubt granted to some students even now but they were not regulated by any uniform or well-understood principle He suggested that a competitive examination might be held for the selection of candidates for the award of scholarships.

Mr. Narayanan Madhavan Karthavu (*Shertallay*) said the Technical Institute at Nagercoil, situated as it was at one end of the State

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

and containing only engineering classes, was not of great use to the people at large. He suggested that four technical schools might be opened in the four Divisions of the State in which such useful arts as coir manufacture, weaving and match-box-making might be taught with advantage to students. He also thought that industrial classes might be opened in all vernacular schools throughout the State.

Reply.—It is incorrect to say that the Nagercoil Technical Institute contains only engineering classes. Industrial instruction is also imparted there. In this town itself, there are two other institutions. The weaving class has not been abolished in the local School of Arts, the teacher thereof having been only temporarily sent to the Central Prison for teaching weaving to the prisoners there. Due consideration will be given to the suggestions now made by the members and whatever is possible will be done.

VIII. Religious and charitable institutions.

179. Separation of Devaswom and Revenue departments and adequate representation of Native Christians in the public service.

Mr. R. Narayana Pillai (Ettumanur) represented that at present the Tahsildars had no time even to think about the mismanagement of Devaswoms and much less to remedy it. Many useful reforms in Devaswom administration might be undertaken, but any step in that direction required special attention and without a separate department for the management of Devaswoms it was impossible to achieve anything important.

Mr. C. P. Thomas B. A., L. T., (Travancore and Cochin Christian Association, Kottayam) said that the representation of Indian Christians in the service of the State was inadequate to their number and educational status. He quoted facts and figures in support of this statement and mentioned that only one in 20,000 Christians was in receipt of a pay of Rs. 100 or above. Only in the Medical department where specific professional qualifications were essential and perhaps in one or two others also were their claims not absolutely overlooked. Considering how the members of this community had in several instances distinguished themselves as educationists outside the State and how they had been always in the forefront of voluntary educational activity in the State itself, it was, to say the least, very remarkable that even in the educational department the number of Christians hitherto employed was

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly